(a) providing [generating] an external configuration file containing information about a

plurality of devices that might be associated with the computer;

(b) identifying a particular device associated with the computer, the particular device

being one of the plurality of devices;

(c) installing a driver on the computer according to the information stored in the external

configuration file and the particular device's identity; and

(d) installing the operating system according to information stored in the external

configuration file and the particular device's identity.

10. (Amended) A program storage medium encoded with instructions that, when

executed by a computer, perform a method for installing an operating system on a computer, the

method comprising:

(a) providing [generating] an external configuration file containing information about a

plurality of devices that might be associated with the computer;

(b) identifying a particular device associated with the computer, the particular device

being one of the plurality of devices;

(c) installing a driver on the computer according to the information stored in the external

configuration file and the particular device's identity; and

(d) installing the operating system according to information stored in the external

configuration file and the particular device's identity.

19. (Amended) A computer programmed to perform a method for installing an operating

system thereon, the method comprising:

(a) providing [generating] an external configuration file containing information about a

plurality of devices that might be associated with the computer;

(b) identifying a particular device associated with the computer, the particular device being one of the plurality of devices;

(c) installing a driver on the computer according to the information stored in the external configuration file and the particular device's identity; and

(d) installing the operating system according to information stored in the external configuration file and the particular device's identity.

28. (New)   The method of claim 1, wherein installing the operating system includes replacing contents of the Autoexec.bat file utilizing information from the external configuration file.

29. (New)   The program storage medium of claim 10, wherein the act of installing the operating system includes replacing contents of the Autoexec.bat file utilizing information from the external configuration file.

30. (New)   The computer of claim 19, wherein the act of installing the operating system includes replacing contents of the Autoexec.bat file utilizing information from the external configuration file.

31. (New)   The method of claim 1, wherein installing the operating system includes specifying information generated utilizing the external configuration file as the information setup file for the OS setup file.

32. (New)   The program storage medium of claim 10, wherein installing the operating system includes specifying information generated utilizing the external configuration file as the information setup file for the OS setup file.